

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 10610 031727Z

67

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1125

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

S E C R E T ROME 10610

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CI, VT

SUBJECT: VATICAN COMMENTS ON CHILEAN SITUATION

REF: ROME 9885

1. ARCHBISHOP CASAROLI, VATICAN "FOREIGN MINISTER," TOLD US DURING BRIEF CONVERSATION OCT 3 THAT, ALTHOUGH NUNCIATURE IN ANTIAGO IS COMMUNICATING WITH VATICAN, IT HAS NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO VERIFY ANY OF RUMORS CONCERNING MASS KILLINGS IN CHILE. ONLY KILLINGS VATICAN HAS BEEN ABLE TO VERIFY TO DATE ARE APPROXIMATELY 15 EXECUTIONS WHICH JUNTA HAS ITSELF ANNOUNCED.

2. DUE TO FLUID SITUATION AND MANY STORIES OF ALLEGED JUNTA-DIRECTED MASSACRES, CASARILI SAID VATICAN HAS NOT TAKEN ANY STEPS WHICH COULD BE CHARACTERIZED AS RECOGNITION OF REGIME. OF COURSE, HE NOTED, IN LATIN AMERICA HOLY SEE FOR MANY YEARS HAS FOLLOWED POLICY OF RECOGNIZING STATES RATHER THAN GOVERNMENTS. SINCE HOLY SEE CONSIDERS ITS DIPLOMACY MAINLY AS A SERVICE TO LOCAL HIERARCHY, WHOLE QUESTION OF RECOGNITION IS NOT OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE. MOREOVER, IN RECENT HISTORY VATICAN PRACTICE IS NEVER TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH A COUNTRY; RATHER TO REACT ONLY WHEN HOST COUNTRY HAS ITSELF SEVERED RELATIONS. BEAUDRY

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